

Maryland Statewide Plan for Agriculture
Implementation Committee Report
December 2007

Introduction

In February 2005, then Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley was asked by the previous administration, to develop comprehensive policy recommendations that could advance Maryland's agriculture. Secretary Riley delegated the request to the Maryland Agricultural Commission that appointed an Advisory Committee to guide a strategic planning process, the report, and recommendations for next steps. The Commission contracted with American Farmland Trust (AFT) to facilitate the process and to write the statewide strategic plan.

An eight-month public input process was conducted that resulted in a plan that addressed the needs of the farmers, the farm community and others invested in the future of Maryland's agriculture. The process included surveys, seven county-level listening sessions, conference calls with experts, and an all-day capstone event, the Governor's Agricultural Forum. The resulting strategic plan report was published in June of 2006. It included 30 overall policy recommendations with about 150 recommended specific actions.

Generous contributions from 25 agricultural, environmental, and land conservation foundations, organizations and businesses made the entire effort possible (see Appendix 1). These supporters were very clear that their funding was being given on the understanding that this strategic plan, unlike many others, would be implemented. Likewise, participants at the listening sessions and the Governor's Forum expressed similar interest in seeing tangible results from their input. Prior to the 2006 elections, the Ehrlich Administration took initial implementation steps and the Department of Agriculture (MDA) committed itself to forming an Implementation Committee after the election (Appendix 2).

During his campaign, candidate Martin O'Malley also committed to reviewing the recommendations of the Statewide Plan. Following his election, he appointed an Agricultural Transition Team chaired jointly by Ms Lucie Snodgrass and former Secretary of Agriculture Hagner Mister. Given the considerable overlap in issues and concerns addressed by the two efforts, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Earl "Buddy" Hance, who assumed the role of Implementation Committee Chair, recommended that the two sets of recommendations be merged.

The following report is a summary update on the implementation status of the recommendations from the two reports. Sections 1 and 2 briefly describe how the committee reviewed the recommendations and status information. Section 3 describes implementation activities to date. Detailed information on the progress of specific recommendations is presented in Appendix 3. The full list of appendices is as follows.

- Appendix 1 Funding organizations of the Statewide Agricultural Plan
- Appendix 2 Members of the Implementation Committee
- Appendix 3 Table of Recommendations and Implementation Status
- Appendix 4 List of Implementing Partners

Appendix 5 Maryland Statewide Agricultural Strategic Plan budget summary from the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. – project fiduciary agent.

1) Implementation committee composition, goals and tasks

The Implementation Committee is made up of 14 members representing the state Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the University of Maryland, several agriculture businesses and not-for-profit associations and organizations. They met monthly from May to September 2007. At the outset, Committee members stated unanimously that their “clients” in this exercise were not elected representatives or agency personnel but the farmers who shared their ideas and aspirations throughout the process.

To accomplish its goals, committee members set out the following tasks:

- Combine the Statewide Plan recommendations with those of the Agricultural Transition Team.
- Compile information on accomplishments.
- Match specific recommendations with individual departments and agencies (both public and private) that were already, or could be taking action on them.
- Write an interim status report (this report).
- Discuss appropriate uses of any remaining funds to support the successful implementation of the goals identified in the plan
- Develop a plan to track the status of recommendations, communicate with the implementing partners and assist their efforts as appropriate, and report to donors, the Agricultural Commission, the Governor’s office, forum participants and the general public on progress.

2) Working with the Recommendations

The majority of the committee’s efforts have involved reviewing, assessing, and organizing information about the recommendations:

In March 2007, MDA staff reviewed the Forum and Transition Team’s reports and collected information about what had been done to implement individual recommendations. The committee received copies of these findings at its first meeting.

In the process of combining recommendations from both documents, a large number of recommendations were culled. Those that overlapped were combined. Some were no longer relevant due to changes in circumstances. A large number of the transition recommendations addressed internal MDA decision-making and were dealt with separately.

All remaining recommendations were merged into a single spreadsheet document so that they could be easily updated, categorized and counted. The committee coded recommendations for such things as their source document, relative priority, stage of completion, etc. Appendix 3 provides a table of all the specific recommendations, their status and some of the categorizing work the committee did. The full spreadsheets are available.

The committee members reviewed the status assessments done by MDA staff and made updates and changes based on their own knowledge and on consultation with implementing agencies. The information in the table in Appendix 3 represents the most complete picture

the committee was able to put together given time and resources and the changing nature of the programs..

During the process, the committee identified one or more responsible departments or agencies for each recommendation. In all, 33 partners were identified and are listed in Appendix 4.

3) The Recommendations and Results to Date.

Once combined, the two documents resulted in 109 recommendations. ~~In order~~ to organize the information, the committee adopted the three main categories of the Statewide Plan Report: Enhancing profitability of agriculture, Ensuring an adequate base of well-managed agricultural land, and Research, education and the advocacy of agriculture. About two thirds of the recommendations dealt with profitability. More than one third addressed land base and stewardship and seven percent with research, education and advocacy of agriculture.

As a measure of progress, the committee made assessments of completion and assigned the following designations:

- **Done** when the main intent had been accomplished
- **Done and Ongoing** when the main thrust was addressed and related actions are continuing (such as setting up an interagency working group).
- **Ongoing** when the recommendation is being worked on.
- **No movement** (self explanatory)
- **Unsuccessful** and no current effort to continue.

As shown in Table 1, over a third of the recommendations can be described as having been accomplished and 80 percent receiving active attention. Only nine recommendations are stalled or unsuccessful.

Table 1. Major recommendation type and completion status.

	Total	Done	Done & Ongoing	Ongoing	No movement to date	Unsuccessful
Profitability	62	4	15	35	6	2
Land	40	9	4	26	1	
Research	7		2	5		
Total	109	13	21	66	7	2

The committee also looked at the recommendations in terms of the type of action that they called for, identifying the categories of legislative action (which often contained a funding component), funding (separate from legislation), programmatic actions to be taken by one or more agency or department, and regulations and rule making. Numerous recommendations could fit more than one category or might switch from one to another at some point (such as when funding becomes available through legislation and is then implemented by programmatic action).

Table 2 shows program and legislative actions as the most frequently recommended and both having a good success rate.

Table 2: Breakdown by type of action called for

Type of Action	Done	Done & Ongoing	Ongoing	No movement to date	Unsuccessful	Total	Percent
Program	9	11	27		1	48	44%
Legislative	3	6	31	6	1	47	43%
Funding	1	1	5			7	6%
Admin.action		3	3	1		7	6%
Total						109	100%

To further categorize the recommendations, the committee the used a number of functional categories, or topic areas. Ultimately, 15 categories were used (though the table in Appendix 3 includes some sub categories). Just three of the 15 categories, Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs), Business assistance for farm enterprises and Farmland Protection account for nearly 50% of all the recommendations.

Table 3

Areas of policy, programming and funding that emerged from the recommendations. (Numbers in parentheses are the total number of recommendations in that category.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1) Conservation BMPs (20)
(Includes implementation, cover crops research)</p> <p>2) Farm Business Assistance (17)
(Costs, labor, planning, marketing)</p> <p>3) Farmland Protection (13)
(methods, funding)</p> <p>4) Biofuels (12)</p> <p>5) Farm Transition (7)</p> <p>6) Local Marketing (7)</p> <p>7) Farm Processing (7)</p> | <p>8) Promote Agriculture (6)
(through education, communications)</p> <p>9) Forestry (3)</p> <p>10) Conflict Mediation (3)</p> <p>11) Planning For Ag (3)</p> <p>12) Wildlife (3)</p> <p>13) Right to Farm (2)</p> <p>14) Plant & Animal Protection (2)</p> <p>15) Insurance (1)</p> |
|---|--|

4) Next steps for Implementation

Having fulfilled its task of organizing this large body of recommendations and provided an update on their status, the committee identified steps to help ensure that there is continued progress on the Statewide plan.

- a. At the Committee's suggestion, the Secretary of Agriculture has sent letters to all of the Implementation Partners. The letters acknowledge their role in the success of the

Statewide Plan, identify the recommendations that fall into their purview, and say that the Implementation Committee will be involved in future steps for monitoring and collaboration.

- b. **Implementation Committee Meetings:** The committee will convene three times per year; following the legislative session, sometime in the summer and in the late fall prior to the upcoming legislative session. Prior to each meeting, Committee members will contact the Implementing Partners inquire about progress, accomplishments and obstacles. The Committee will update the recommendations table, identify possible ways to assist Partners, keep them informed of related initiatives and report to stakeholders.
- c. **Statewide Plan Review Meetings:** Given the breadth of scope of the Statewide Plan and the Transition Team's analysis of where Maryland agriculture should be heading in the future, it seems useful to invest some time in assessing progress at the strategic "10,000 foot" level as a complement to the work on individual recommendations. To accomplish this, once a year, representatives of all implementing partners, the Committee, Agriculture Commission members and others will meet. Using an analysis of the recommendations collected by the committee prior to the meeting, they will discuss how their efforts are affecting Maryland Agriculture as a whole, seek new opportunities for collaboration and synergy, resolve difficulties and set strategies for moving forward.

5) **Reporting**

- a. **Donor reports:** The 25 organizations that contributed have a keen interest in seeing concrete results from their investment. To date, they have received a copy of the Final report from the contractor (American Farmland Trust) and this update. They will continue to receive updates from the committee and a full report of the Implementing Partners meeting.
- b. **Constituent Reports**
 - **Ag Commission:** Quarterly verbal report from Eugene Roberts, who serves on the Implementation Committee, and the bi-annual reports.
 - **Forum participants:** Annual reports
 - **Ag. and Environment Community Constituencies:** Implementing Partners can inform their own constituencies through newsletters, websites and other means of internal communications.
 - **General public:** The MDA communications office will issue 2-3 press releases and write 1-2 articles each year. We anticipate that the Governor's office will make additional announcements. All partners will be free to communicate with the public, to talk about their role in implementation successes.

6) **Allocating remaining funds**

Of the \$165,595 raised from the donors for this effort, \$52,800 remains (Appendix 5). The committee has proposed to the donors that a portion of the remaining funds be used as follows.

- 1) **Follow up and monitoring:** Executing the work plan above will require a modest yet vital amount of funds and staff time. MDA has committed a portion of the new

Legislative Liaison's time for this purpose. The Committee feels that some additional time (approximately 100 hours in the next 12 months) is warranted and recommends that about \$8,000 of the remaining funds be used for that purpose as well as to cover out-of-pocket costs including telephone, copying, venue rental, refreshments for meetings and travel reimbursements. A budget estimate for these services is attached in Appendix 6. A contract for these services could be entered into with an appropriate organization chosen by the Agriculture Commission.

- 2) The committee hopes to propose additional funds allocate for direct implementation efforts in the near future.

Appendix 1
Donors to the Statewide Agricultural Plan Process

- 1) Abell Foundation
- 2) Bancroft Foundation
- 3) Chesapeake Bay Trust
- 4) Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
- 5) Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
- 6) Farm Credit
- 7) France-Merrick Foundation
- 8) Frederick County Pomona Grange
- 9) Keith Campbell Foundation
- 10) Land-O-Lakes, Inc.
- 11) Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
- 12) Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation
- 13) Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.
- 14) Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.
- 15) Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
- 16) Maryland Horse Breeders Association
- 17) Maryland Horse Council
- 18) Maryland Horse Industry Board
- 19) Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.
- 20) Maryland State Grange
- 21) Maryland Turfgrass Association, Inc.
- 22) Maryland Wineries Association
- 23) Mountaire Farms
- 24) Rural Maryland Council**
- 25) Town Creek Foundation**

Appendix 2

Implementation Committee Members

Jim Baird	Mid-Atlantic States Director	American Farmland Trust
Kim Coble	Maryland Executive Director	Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Eugene Roberts	Maryland Agriculture Commission	Fairwood Turf Farm, Inc.
Bill Satterfield	Executive Director	Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
Russell Brinsfield	Executive Director	Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
Steve McHenry	Executive Director	MARBIDCO
Lynne Hoot	Executive Director	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts & Grain Producers Association
Earl Hance	Deputy Secretary	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Sue du Pont	Director of Communications	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Rob Burk	Executive Director Horse Industry Board	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Dan Rider	Associate Director, Forest Products & Utilization	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Valerie Connelly	Director of Government Relations	Maryland Farm Bureau
Kenny Bounds	Vice President & Chief Business Development Officer	Mid Atlantic Farm Credit
Bob Tjaden	Maryland Cooperative Extension	University of Maryland

Appendix 3

Table of Recommendations and Implementation Status

Three tables are included in the Appendix

- a. **Recommendations Accomplished:** Principal aim of recommendation is complete. (includes recommendations whose main objective was accomplished yet implementation activities continue)
- b. **Recommendations On-Going:** Implementation actions continue. (includes recommendations whose main objective was accomplished yet implementation activities continue)
- c. **Legislative Recommendations:** All recommendations relating to legislative issues.

Explanation of Column Headings:

Column 1: ID # - Item Number

- Unique identifier assigned to all recommendations at the start of the process. Helps in identification for updates.

Column 1 # - Number

- Consecutive numbering of recommendations for ease of reference in table

Column 2: Doc – Document

Source document for recommendation

- F = Governor's Forum i.e., Statewide Plan for Agriculture Report Document
- T = Governor O'Malley's Agriculture Transition Team Document

Column 3: Iss = Primary Issue

Based on principal issue areas identified in the Statewide Plan for Agriculture Report Document

- P = Enhancing **Profitability** of agriculture
- L = Ensuring an adequate base of well-managed agricultural **Land**
- R = **Research**, Education and advocacy of agriculture

Column 4: Topic areas

Functional categories that recommendations address

Column 5: Recommendation Text

Column 6: Status Comments

Comments on the status of implementation of the recommendation provided initially by MDA staff (March 2007) and amended/updated by Committee members with assistance from Implementing Partners.

Column 7: Status

Completion status

- D = Done/accomplished

- D/O = Main objective accomplished but ongoing implementation activities continue
- O = Main objective yet to be accomplished. Ongoing implementation activities underway
- N = No movement on the recommendation
- U = Unsuccessful. Actions taken but no success to date

Column 8: Action Type

Type of action called for by the recommendation (Note: Many recommendations call for more than one type of action)

- \$ = Funding/Budgetary action
- A = Agency regulation or rule
- L = Legislative action
- P = Programmatic action

Column 11: Implementing Partner

Acronym(s) of agencies, offices, organizations with a role in implementing the recommendation.

Agro-ecology Center	No acronym	Interagency Energy Working Group	IEWG
Insurance Commissioner	“	MD Association of Counties	MACO
Maryland Delegation to Congress	“	MD Agricultural Education Foundation	MAEF
MD Department of Agriculture (MDA)		MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	MALPF
Marketing Ad Hoc Advisory Board		“	
Agriculture Awareness Group	“	MD Agriculture and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation	MARBIDCO
Governor's Office	“	MD Cooperative Extension	MCE
Maryland Legislature	“	MDA Marketing	MDA
Agricultural Tax Incentive Task Force	ATITF	MDA Resource Conservation Office	MDA RCO
Univ. of Maryland Center Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development	CBFED	MD Department of the Environment Farm Bureau	MDE
Chesapeake Bay Trust	CBT	Maryland Energy Administration	MDFB
Univ. of Maryland, Center, for Food Safety and Security	CFSS	Maryland Grain Producers Association	MEA
MD Department of Business and Economic Development	DBED	Maryland Horse Industry Board	MGPA
MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	DHMH	Rural Agricultural Fuels Task Force	MHIB
Department of Natural Resources	DNR	Rural Maryland Council	RAFTF
Department of Natural Resources Wildlife	DNR Wildlife	MD Technology Development Corporation	RMC
Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture	GICA	University of Maryland	TEDCO
			UMD

Appendix 3a

Recommendations Accomplished

As of December 1, 2007 (sorted by Topic and Status)

#	DOC	Iss	Topic	Recommendation Text	Status Comments	Status	Action	Who
1.	T	P	Bio Energy	#35: Maintain the InterAgency Energy Working Group (IAEWG).	Group established and is meeting	D/O	P	MDA, IAEWG
2.	T	P	Biofuels	#40: Participate actively in the Governor's Ethanol Coalition.	Governor office press release announcing that he has joined the Governor's Ethanol Coalition	D	P	Gov's Office
3.	F	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Design a two-tiered cover crop system to allow for harvesting.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA Resource Conservation
4.	F	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Examine the possibility of adjusting the cover crop program to reflect planting differences across the state.	The program is probably at maximum flexibility.	D	P	MDA Resource Conservation
5.	T	L	BMPs Cover Crops	#8: Grant the \$3,042,000 "Over the Target" request in general funds to fully fund the cover crop program.	The Bay Restoration Fund provides approximately \$4.5 million in dedicated revenue for cover crops and the program continues to receive general fund support, and additional grants funding. Demand , however, continues to outpace resources. In FY 07, farmers' requests exceeded \$17 million for a total available \$8.3 million in program funding. In FY 08, there were requests for \$13 million with the same \$8.3 million available. Farmers continue to fully utilize available cover crop resources. If Bay water quality goals are to be met, new funding sources such as the Green Fund must be developed. MDA has supported recent efforts to pass Green Fund legislation, to this end.	D	L/\$	MDA Resource Conservation

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6.	F	P	Business Assistance	Provide funding through MARBIDCO, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), and other agricultural economic development initiatives	MARBIDCO received \$3 million for FY 08. RMC expects approximately \$253,000 for MAERDAF FY 08.	D	\$	MAERDAF (RMC), MARBIDCO
7.	T	P	Business Assistance	#17: support expansion of rural broadband.	Governor has announced \$2 million in funding to link lower and western shore.	D/O	L/\$	OBED RMC
8.	F	P	Business Assistance Costs	Encourage appropriate adjustments to the Federal "adverse wage rate" so Maryland farmers can have competitive access to the H2A program.	This has been raised by MDA with the federal Congressional Delegation on repeated occasions.	D	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
9.	F	P	Business Assistance Costs	Review and adjust inter- and intra-state weight limit restrictions for agricultural products.	HB 420 passed, creating an exceptional hauling permit pilot program for milk. MDA will work with the federal delegation on federal transportation issues.	D/O	\$	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
10.	F	P	Business Assistance Png	Establish the Center for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development (CBFED) to provide concept development and business planning assistance to agricultural operations in the areas of marketing, business and financial planning, cultural practices, and policy implications that affect agriculture across the broad range of land-based enterprise	<p>The School of Agriculture and Natural Resources is moving forward with a "virtual center," rather than "bricks and mortar." The focus will be on young and beginning farmers but extension will not turn anyone away that has a serious proposal. In Phase 1 (Feb 2008) all Extension staff will be briefed on plans, internal contacts, etc.. A planning handbook on business, marketing, and succession will be developed as a general tool for staff and handed out. In Phase 2, staff with an interest business, estate and marketing planning will receive training. They will then offer assistance on a regional basis. Staff are currently available for marketing plans (Ginger Meyers) and business planning (Dale Johnson).</p> <p>Web-based tools, will provide farmers with basic information and serve as an initial screening tool. The next level of assistance will be from regional staff in a group setting with others who have expressed a similar need. Those still requesting assistance will then be able to access one-on-one staff time. At all stages, outside partners with specific skills will be brought as needed.</p>	D/O	P	UMD, CBFED

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11.	F	P	Farm Processing	Reform policies to vertically “harmonize” federal, state, and local inspections and other standards-based regulations at the legislative and departmental levels, particularly with regard to on-farm processing and meat products.	The Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA) was created in 2006 to promote the economic profitability of Maryland agriculture by ensuring that all appropriate state agencies work in a cooperative coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to the agricultural affairs of the State. The issues addressed by this group will include zoning, health regulations, and right-to-farm laws. GICA is up and running.	D/O	A	GICA
12.	F	P	Farm Processing	Change state regulations so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA is continuing to work on clarifying on-farm processing regulations throughout the State.	D/O	L/A	GICA
13.	T	P	Farm Processing	#45: Due to seasonal changes in milk production and the MD Health Department’s desire to have all milk removed at each farm pick-up, weight restrictions on milk hauling trucks should be more flexible per the example of Western MD’s timber hauling trucks.	SB 733 passed and was signed into law. MDA will work with federal delegation to change restrictions at the federal level.	D/O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
14.	F	P	Farm Processing	Encourage modification of local regulations so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA continues to provide examples of effective interpretation of existing regulations which achieve the dual goals of protecting public health and enhancing economic opportunities for rural residents. Dialogue among elected and regulatory officials is also useful and identifying and modifying problematic issues.	D/O	P	GICA
15.	F/T	P	Farm Transition	Establish and fund the “next generation land acquisition” effort (111).	HB 2/2006 authorizes up to \$5M for MARBIDCO to establish a Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program. The Young Farmers Advisory Board has made this its top priority.	D/O	P \$	MARBIDCO, MALPF, Young Farmers Advisory Board
16.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Establish a permanent Commission on Agricultural Land Preservation and Zoning.	Commission has been established.	D	P	GICA

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17.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Prioritize the use of state land preservation funding to encourage the preservation of large contiguous blocks of productive farmland.	Occurring at the county level now.	D/O	P	MALPF
18.	F	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Ensure full funding for Maryland's land protection programs by dedicating the real estate transfer tax and the agricultural transfer tax for their intended uses.	Received full funding for FY 08.	D/O	L	MDA
19.	F	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Establish a revolving fund for MALPF to buy agricultural land in fee and then sell the land at auction to farmers subject to an easement. (The program could be targeted to beginning or young farmers as appropriate).	MALPF has issued is Critical Farms port which recommends \$4 million annual funding to a total of \$16 million.	D/O	L/4	MALPF
20.	F	L	Forestry	Encourage the Soil Conservation Districts in conjunction with DNR to write a section for forestry when doing a farm plan for their clients.	Already being done.	D	P	MDA, DNR, SCDs
21.	F	L	Forestry	Create a task force to examine ways to ensure that state programs and regulations are more consistent between forestry and farming.	There is a forestry rep on the ag commission, on GICA and on the MALPF board.	D/O	A	DNR Forestry
22.	F	P	Insurance	Increase funding levels, participation and types of crops eligible for crop insurance including funding for technical assistance and outreach to the agricultural community	HB2 asks for subsidies for crop insurance premiums, but there is no funding. Support HB1389 (done) Sign HB1389 if passed by General Assembly. Was not included in the Budget, but MDA would like to see it included in the future. Adjust funding request based on HB1389.(possible that it could be implemented with 1.25 – 1.5 million).	D/O	L/\$	MDA
23.	F	P	Local Mktg	Establish an ongoing statewide working group on agricultural marketing and branding issues.	There are several groups working on marketing and branding issues. The Ag Awareness group meets regularly, consisting of 15 reps from different industry groups. Marketing also created an ad hoc advisory board in 2006 to assist MDA in responding to HB.2.	D/O	P	MDA Mktg's Ag Awareness Group, Ad Hoc Advisory Board
24.	F	P	Local Mktg	Initiate a "buy local" promotional campaign with a method to measure results. (64)	MDA is relaunching MD's Best program this year; promoting and advertising farmer's market week; publicizing a buy local campaign. Marketing is working with MDA PIO on events and press releases promoting local products. Marketing is	D/O	P	MDA Mktg.

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					working with Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Del. Dept. of Ag to increase sales of locally grown watermelons in local chain stores. This initiative will be a model for apple sales in the fall.			
25.	F	L	Mediation	Authorize and encourage all counties to create agricultural reconciliation boards (ARBs) and define their responsibilities.	Law passed directed that ag. Disputes need to go to dispute resolution board before they can go to court and ACRES program is encouraging counties.	D	P	MDA ACRES
26.	F	L	Mediation	Create a state-level board to mediate cases in counties that elect not to create a county-level board and/or to handle more complicated cases.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA ACRES
27.	F	L	Mediation	Require aggrieved parties to go through mediation before a suit can be filed.	Accomplished. HB 396/2006 was signed into law and requires that a person filing a nuisance action against an agricultural operation in any county first file a complaint with either a local agency authorized to hear a nuisance complaint or with the state mediation program.	D	L	MDA ACRE
28.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a state guide to planning for agriculture that includes mechanisms, such as reverse setbacks, for reducing land use conflicts, and a model right-to-farm ordinance with guidelines for county officials	This is an ongoing GICA goal. Certain information has already been compiled and published on the MDA website. Additional information will continue to be added, and may be published in hard copy at a later date.	D/O	P	GICA
29.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a technical assistance toolbox for local officials on zoning and regulations that both support traditional agriculture and allow for alternative agricultural uses	GICA	D/O	P	GICA
30.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Convene an ongoing statewide working group to discuss zoning issues related to agriculture and develop tangible action items.	GICA	D/O	A	GICA

31.	F	R	Promote Ag	Develop a public relations campaign promoting the benefits of Maryland agriculture.	The Agricultural Awareness Campaign (AAC) was established to include a broad range of organizations interested in supporting the viability of Maryland farming by initiating an umbrella public relations effort. The intent of the campaign, which is under development, is to improve the perception of agriculture and its importance to the general public with the goal of ultimately improving demand for, and profits from, the sale of Maryland products. While supporting marketing efforts, the campaign also will build public understanding of agriculture that will support policy initiatives, farmland protection, careers in agriculture and more. The group's plan is for this program to be multi-year and budgeted.	D/O	P \$	MDA Marketing, MDA AAC
32.	F	R	Promote Ag	Encourage MHAA to fund projects that promote and present the historic agricultural focus of Maryland.	MHAA receives \$3 million in funding.	D/O	P	MDA, MHAA
33.	F	L	Right 2 Farm	Create a deterrent against frivolous nuisance suits and illegal ordinances.	ACRES program is in place.	D	P	MDA ACRES
34.	F	P	Wildlife Insurance	Work with insurance companies to help cover crop damage due to wildlife.	Accomplished.	D	P	MDA

Appendix 3b

Recommendations Ongoing As of December 1, 2007 (Sorted by Topic and Status)

#	DOC	Iss	Topic	Recommendation Text	Status Comments	Status	Action	Implementing Partner
35.	T	P	Bio Energy	#35: Maintain the InterAgency Energy Working Group (IAEWG).	Group established and is meeting	D/O	P	MDA, IAEWG
36.	T	P	Biofuel	#41: Support the development of a new crushing facility for soybeans.	DBED has provided funds to conduct a feasibility study for a crushing facility in Washington County and is prepared to provide financial assistance to the project developers.	O	P	MDA, DBED
37.	F	P	Biofuels	Provide tax credits/exemptions for biodiesel and ethanol use and production.	MEA should take the lead on this.	N	L/\$	IAEWG, RAFTF, MEA, MGPA

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38.	T	P	Biofuels	#42: Support tax credit incentives for home heating oil at \$0.01 for each percent of biodiesel included.	Refer to the Interagency Energy Working Group for consideration and support.	N	L/\$	IAEWG RAFTF
39.	FT	P	Biofuels	#14 Enact a statewide initiative to blend 2 percent biodiesel into entire diesel supply (+14)	MDA supported legislation to do this, but it failed. SB 261 established a Renewable Alternative Fuels Task Force (RAFTF), which began work in July. (As RAFTF is a short term legislative group - there needs to be follow up from IAEWG if these issues are not addressed)	O	L	IAEWG, RAFTF
40.	F	P	Biofuels	Require new state vehicles to be biofuel compatible and use alternative fuels when available.	SB 54 was signed into law and requires that, beginning in FY08, a minimum of 50% of state owned diesel engine vehicles use a blend of fuel that contains at least 5% biodiesel. Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) should take the lead. Logistically difficult as no good vehicle purchase options exist for state agencies. Emphasis should be on push to get E85 pumps throughout state and at MDA. At a briefing at the Board of Public Works about hybrid cars and biodiesel fuel in the state's fleet of 9,000 vehicles, Larry Williams, fleet administrator for the state Department of Budget and Management, detailed plans Wednesday to increase the percentage of biofuel and hybrid cars to 40 percent of new purchases by 2010.	O	P	IAEWG
41.	T	P	Biofuels	#36: Commit to funding the Maryland Renewable Fuels Promotion Act when a project becomes certified	Undetermined time frame - Based on receipt and approval of a qualifying biofuels producer. Provide funding as recommended by the Renewable Fuels Incentive Board per 10-1507 of the Agriculture Article. Evaluate increase in credit pool.	O	L/A	MRFIB
42.	FT	P	Biofuels	#38: Purchase bonds, up to \$10M, to establish a low interest loan program to buy down interest on up to \$10 million to provide low interest loans for farmers to use to invest in biofuels projects. The state will be repaid over a ten-year period as the principal is paid off.	Direct MDA and DBED to identify and/or recommend programs that would support farmer investment in biofuels production plants.	O	L/\$	MGPA
43.	T	P	Biofuels	#46: Embrace methane digester technology for livestock operations.	MDA has had extensive conversations over the past few years with operators of a 10 year old plant for poultry in WVA and are evaluating the potential application of the technology on Delmarva. MDA is actively supporting the development of digesters by executing long term contracts to purchase the energy. A number of companies scouting for viable, privately financed digester projects.	O	P	MDA, Pat McM

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44.	T	P	Biofuels	#43: Promote the use of biodiesel in school buses.	MDA supported but HB 47 failed.	U	L	RAFTF, MGPA, MEA
45.	T/F	L	BMP Research	Create a dedicated funding source to fund additional research to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs, develop new BMPs, and support improved implementation of BMS at the farm level. Combine these efforts with expanded water quality monitoring. (73&89)	MDA Resource Conservation has received some USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Funds to evaluate and demonstrate BMPs. MDA is partnering with UMCP on Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Many projects are underway through federal and private grant funds and partnerships. Example: dairy grazing/nutrition project; ditch nutrient reduction technology being tested at UMES; and many others.	O	L/P	MDA Resource Conservation, UMD, Agro-Ecology, MDA
46.	F	L	BMPs	Fund and re-open soil testing lab or provide similar services.	While HB 2/2006 provided some funding, it was insufficient to re-establish a soil-testing lab on a permanent basis. The Dean is committed to re-opening the lab if a continuing funding source were provided. In the meantime, the University is and will continue to receive soil samples, send them outside for testing, make UMD recommendations and forward them to the farmer.	O	L/P	UMD
47.	F	L	BMPs Cover Crops	Provide sufficient funding for cover crop program.	The FY07 funding for cover crops was \$8M and HB 2/2006 authorizes \$3M more. FY 08 funding is \$8.6 million.	O	L/\$	MDA Resource Conservation
48.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#28: Additional funding should be allocated to the State Revolving Loan Fund to support the LILAC program.	This is a popular program that sells out quickly. Leveraged against MDE's SRF funding that has seen a 50% reduction in federal funds, limiting funds available for LILAC. MDA initiated a reprioritization of allowable practices to target most cost-effective practices.	N	L/\$	MDA, MDE
49.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#9: Increase field staffing levels in SCD to 110 positions as required by HB 2.	Requires DBM actions in Budget in next three years to comply. HB 2/2006 required about 35 new positions. For FY08, MDA received approval for initial 12 new PINs These are in the process of being filled, along with 6 vacancies.	O	A/\$	MDA Resource Conservation
50.	F	L	BMPs Implement	Fund implementation and adaptation of newly developed conservation practices that result from the University system and other research.	New tested BMPs are being regularly incorporated into the implementation and adaptation process. MACs funding is used as available.	O	L/\$	Agro Ecology Center, CBT
51.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#11: Maintain adequate funding for the MACS program.	Currently adequate funding but would be inadequate funding if the program grows.	O	\$	MDA Resource Conservation
52.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#12: Streamline the payment procedures for MACS so farmers do not wait as long for payment.	Always looking for ways to streamline the program. Looking for new information management tools.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation

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53.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#24: Work with the Maryland Federal delegation to raise USDA, NRCS funding to support Chesapeake Bay cleanup.	MDA and many ag and environmental organizations are engaged in 2007 farm bill development. This is the biggest chance to influence federal funding and policy to benefit the agricultural economy, nutrition programs, and farm-related conservation efforts in the next 5 years.	O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
54.	T	L	BMPs Implement	#30: Simplify the state's manure transportation program and adequately fund the program at \$750,000 per year. Additionally, seek additional funding (perhaps from EPA or other federal agencies) and target payments to those entities that move excess nutrients out of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	Looking at ways to streamline. Current program is at \$600,000.(GF) Moving nutrients out of the watershed may not be the most cost-effective approach as transportation costs quickly overcome efficiency gains.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation
55.	F	L	BMPs Incentives	Implement ways to reward farmers who already are using good stewardship practices.	Ongoing at MDE. MDE is currently developing a nutrient trading plan which will include point to non-point plans.	O	\$	MDA, MDE
56.	F	L	BMPs Incentives	Take advantage of possible future opportunities for farmers to receive "credit" for nutrient reductions from crop management systems that foster carbon sequestration and from new income streams from alternative funding mechanisms such as nutrient trading.	MDA Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) continues to explore and develop new opportunities for income and incentives for ecosystem benefits from BMPs. This includes nutrient reductions that may ultimately be part of a water quality trading. ORC, with MDE has the lead in developing an ag. non-point source nutrient trading program with a pilot program through a Conservation Innovation Grant from NRCS. MDA is also engaged in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) policy process and Maryland's Climate Change Commission. Practices have been identified that will reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), including Ag BMPs. In order to comply with regional emissions caps, generators of GHG, primarily electric utilities, will create a market for offsetting reductions of GHG elsewhere. Farmers are being positioned to participate in these new markets.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation
57.	F	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	Provide additional funding to encourage maximum compliance with nutrient management requirements.	Funding was cut from \$300,000 to \$160,000, but staffing was increased by \$150,000. MDA is still funding UM for nutrient management planners. Staff is insufficient.	O	\$	MDA
58.	F	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	Provide adequate information and practical training on BMPs to better achieve nutrient management plans to protect the health of Chesapeake Bay and its watersheds.	A recent survey through the Cover Crop Program revealed that 88% of the respondents were satisfied with the information and training provided.	O	P	MDA, MCE

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59.	T	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	#26: Review the delivery system for nutrient management plans to ensure that farmers are able to receive low cost plans as efficiently and as sustainably as possible for the state.	Program efficiency and effectiveness is continually evaluated.	O	P	MDA Resource Conservation
60.	T	L	BMPs Nut Mgmt	#27: Support "Over the Target" request for ongoing Extension staff for FY08. Dedicate a revenue source specifically to support research to develop additional BMPs needed to meet the nutrient reduction goals for agriculture.	This request was partially provided by DBM in the FY08 budget through a redirection of existing General Funds away from Nutrient Management Cost-Share causing an issue in that program. Management intends an in depth study of Nutrient Management Planning assistance in the FY'08.	O	L/\$	MCE, MDA
61.	F	L	BMPs RSH	E. Provide additional funding for the University system to conduct research on potential new BMPs that address the needs of agriculture and the health of the bay	MDA is partnering with UMCP on Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). MDA and UMD routinely seek grants for improved BMP research. Current MDA total at least \$1.5 million.	O	\$	University, Agro Ecology Center, CBT
62.	T	P	Business Assistance	#17: support expansion of rural broadband.	Governor has announced \$2 million in funding to link lower and western shore.	D/O	L/\$	OBED RMC
63.	F	P	Business Assistance	Increase threshold for agriculture from \$600 to \$2,000 for reportability and filing of Form 1099 Misc relating to contract labor.	MDA to discuss with federal delegation.	N	L fed	MDA
64.	F	P	Business Assistance	Identify business planning resources available to assist farmers looking to diversify and implement value-added strategies. If necessary, provide training for Small Business Development Counselors (SBDC) on agricultural business development and lending.	MARBIDCO will provide financial support to help farmers with specialized business development planning needs. MCE is establishing a web- and staff-based program to provide farmers access with business planning assistance.	O	P	MCE, MARBIDCO
65.	F	P	Business Assistance	Support market studies and research on production methods, crops, and agricultural products to improve profit margins and enable diversification.	DBED has recently funded a market sector study which determined that the demand in Maryland for high quality meats like Angus and specialty meat like kosher would be sufficient to economically expand the state's processing facilities. MDA is supportive and various market studies have been undertaken by the University and DBED.	O	\$	MCE, DBED

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66.	T	P	Business Assistance	#13: Ensure that issues of importance to the horse industry are given careful attention, especially 1. legislation authorizing the construction of the Maryland Horse Park (MHP), 2. continued support of the activities of the MHIB, 3. establishing a federally certified international import/export facility for equines near BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport, and 4. continued support of the racing and breeding industry.	The Governor could communicate to the MHIB his support for the concept of a Maryland Horse Park, and direct them to solicit proposals for appropriate sites which have the support of the local jurisdiction and property owners. 2. Support activities of MHIB Legislation currently in for horse rescue licensing. 3. July. Import/Export feasibility study underway should be complete by July. MDA to make recommendations based on outcome of study. 4. Bills in for breeding fund incentives, i.e. lottery, etc. if they pass	O	L	MHIB
67.	F	P	Business Assistance	Undertake a business development initiative to attract underwriters who will provide affordable liability coverage.	Some attention has been given to this issue. The MD Insurance Administration produced a brochure designed to help farmers access liability coverage. The Direct Marketing Association is doing a market study to determine need, availability, and costs.	O	P	Insurance Commissioner
68.	F	P	Business Assistance	Convene an ongoing statewide working group to ensure transparent health regulations, consistent among local jurisdictions, that are most advantageous to the farming community.	Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture (GICA) has been established.	O	A	RMC, GICA
69.	F	P	Business Assistance	Study the feasibility of a business cluster for agriceutical and nutraceutical research and development, production, and distribution in Maryland.	UMD has such a cluster proposal under review by the Board of Regents.	O	L	UMD
70.	T	P	Business Assistance	#52: Maintain an agricultural position within DBED to serve as a liaison between DBED, MDA and the agricultural community to ensure DBED financial and business support programs are made available to farmers.	Position has been recently eliminated.	U	P	MDA (Hance), DBED
71.	F	P	Business Assistance Costs	Review and adjust inter- and intra-state weight limit restrictions for agricultural products.	HB 420 passed, creating an exceptional hauling permit pilot program for milk. MDA will work with the federal delegation on federal transportation issues.	D/O	\$	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress

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72.	F	P		Establish the Center for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development (CBFED) to provide concept development and business planning assistance to agricultural operations in the areas of marketing, business and financial planning, cultural practices, and policy implications that affect agriculture across the broad range of land-based enterprise	<p>The School of Agriculture and Natural Resources is moving forward with a "virtual center," rather than "bricks and mortar." The focus will be on young and beginning farmers but extension will not turn anyone away that has a serious proposal. In Phase 1 (Feb 2008) all Extension staff will be briefed on plans, internal contacts, etc.. A planning handbook on business, marketing, and succession will be developed as a general tool for staff and handed out. In Phase 2, staff with an interest business, estate and marketing planning will receive training. They will then offer assistance on a regional basis. Staff are currently available for marketing plans (Ginger Meyers) and business planning (Dale Johnson).</p> <p>Web-based tools, will provide farmers with basic information and serve as an initial screening tool. The next level of assistance will be from regional staff in a group setting with others who have expressed a similar need. Those still requesting assistance will then be able to access one-on-one staff time. At all stages, outside partners with specific skills will be brought as needed.</p>	D/O	P	
			Business Assistance Plng					UMD, CBFED
73.	FT	P	Business Develop.	Develop and implement ways to reduce health insurance costs and increase availability for agricultural businesses and farm families.	MDA is supportive and will write to the Insurance Commissioner; Farm Bureau already offers health insurance to its members, but due to the advanced age and health needs of the state's farmers, insurance costs continue to rise. Encourage insurance commissioner to look at ways to pursue. MDA will write the commissioner.	O	P	MDA, Insurance Commissioner
74.	F	P	Business Develop.	Streamline the application and approval process for H2A and H2B workers and expanded temporary worker programs.	Federal issue. Was included in the MDA list of federal priorities.	O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
75.	F	P	Business Develop.	Find affordable housing solutions for farm employees	MDA supported a bill to do this in the last session, but it failed.	O	L	Farm Bureau
76.	FT	P	Business Develop.	B./#50 Waive amusement tax for agri-tourism enterprises.	MDA supported legislation to do this; it failed last session.	O	L/P	ATITF
77.	T	P	Business Develop.	#49: Support continued exemption of sales tax on agricultural input products.	The repeal of the exemption comes up every so often in the legislature. Support from the administration for maintaining the exemption is welcome.	O	L	Farm Bureau

78.	F	P	Farm Processing	Reform policies to vertically “harmonize” federal, state, and local inspections and other standards-based regulations at the legislative and departmental levels, particularly with regard to on-farm processing and meat products.	The Governor’s Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture (GICA) was created in 2006 to promote the economic profitability of Maryland agriculture by ensuring that all appropriate state agencies work in a cooperative coordinated manner with local government and industry groups in planning, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating intergovernmental initiatives related to the agricultural affairs of the State. The issues addressed by this group will include zoning, health regulations, and right-to-farm laws. GICA is up and running.	D/O	A	GICA
79.	F	P	Farm Processing	Change state regulations so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA is continuing to work on clarifying on-farm processing regulations throughout the State.	D/O	L/A	GICA
80.	T	P	Farm Processing	#45: Due to seasonal changes in milk production and the MD Health Department’s desire to have all milk removed at each farm pick-up, weight restrictions on milk hauling trucks should be more flexible per the example of Western MD’s timber hauling trucks.	SB 733 passed and was signed into law. MDA will work with federal delegation to change restrictions at the federal level.	D/O	L fed	MDA, MD Delegation to Congress
81.	F	P	Farm Processing	Encourage modification of local regulations so they honor the intent of existing regulations while developing alternative approaches that scale to farm-based and community-based processing systems.	GICA continues to provide examples of effective interpretation of existing regulations which achieve the dual goals of protecting public health and enhancing economic opportunities for rural residents. Dialogue among elected and regulatory officials is also useful and identifying and modifying problematic issues.	D/O	P	GICA
82.	F	P	Farm Processing	Create model “agricultural enterprise zone” incentives that jurisdictions can use to attract value-added and processing businesses.	Counties need to take the lead on encouraging more processing businesses and, when there is a shortage, need to expand the local raw materials available to process.	N	A	GICA, MCE
83.	F	P	Farm Processing	Enact a state food policy that encourages on-farm processing, training, and certification of farmers in on-farm food processing safety. This policy should encourage certification of food safety inspectors who specialize in on-farm and small-scale processes and innovation in small batch food processing.	HB 865 passed, allowing for a 5-year pilot project to produce cheese on a farm in Maryland. Also, DHMH now has an ombudsman for the agriculture sector.	O	L/P	MDA, DHMH

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84.	F	P	Farm Processing	Expedite value-added permitting and outline an easy process "roadmap".	HB 239 was signed into law and designates an Agricultural Ombudsman at DHMH to serve as the primary contact for individuals involved in agriculture and to provide information regarding DHMH regulations relating to on-farm processing, food preparation, and other on-farm activities.	O	A	MDA, DHMH, GICA
85.	F/T	P	Farm Transition	Establish and fund the "next generation land acquisition" effort (111).	HB 2/2006 authorizes up to \$5M for MARBIDCO to establish a Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program. The Young Farmers Advisory Board has made this its top priority.	D/O	P \$	MARBIDCO, MALPF, Young Farmers Advisory Board
86.	F/T	L	Farm Transition	Fully fund and implement a state-level Critical Farms program (110, 111).	Included in HB 2, but no funding. Under development by MALPF and being considered in the Governor's budget..	O	L/\$	MALPF
87.	F	P	Farm Transition	Create a Center to provide assistance for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development (CBFED).	One-on-one business planning in the field is critical need. UMD is seeking funding.	O	L/\$	MCE, DBED
88.	F	P	Farm Transition	Establish the CBFED to offer specialized services to young and beginning farmers in the areas of marketing, business and financial planning, cultural practices, and policy implications that affect agriculture across the broad range of land-based enterprises.	See Recommendation 121	O	P	UMD CBFED
89.	F	P	Farm Transition Cost	Eliminate part or all of the federal estate tax for agricultural enterprises.	HB 2/2006 required that a study group look at tax issues as related to agriculture. This group is finalizing their report.	N	L/A	MDA, Farm Bureau
90.	F/T	P	Farm Transition Cost	Eliminate part or all of the state estate tax for agricultural enterprises.	HB 2/2006 established the Incentives for Agriculture Task Force whose mission is to review and evaluate the overall state tax structure as it impacts agriculture and the feasibility of modifications or alternatives to the current structure that would enhance the profitability of Maryland farming.	N	L	ATITF, Farm Bureau
91.	F	P	Farm Transition Cost	Provide working capital grants for farms in transition, demonstration projects.	MARBIDCO provides low-interest loans for working capital and equipment purchases as well as small grants for certain value-added activities.	O	P	MARBIDCO
92.	F	p	Farm Transition Cost	Support reduced capital gains tax rates for land sold to young or new farmers.	GICA, Tax Incentives Task Force.	O	L	ATITF, GICA
93.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Prioritize the use of state land preservation funding to encourage the preservation of large contiguous blocks of productive farmland.	Occurring at the county level now.	D/O	P	MALPF

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94.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Improve MALPF's flexibility on what agricultural uses are allowed on preserved farms.	Ongoing	O	L/P	MALPF
95.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Develop TDR and new farmland preservation programs through state and county collaboration.	GICA meeting on 6/13 focused on this. Ongoing GICA goal.	O	P	GICA
96.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Monitor the issue of transferring water rights on MALPF protected farmland. This issue will have an impact on growth constraints of towns located close to protected farmland and on future operations of the protected farm	MALPF task force on this.	O	P	MALPF
97.	F	L	Farmland Protection	Establish an Executive Order for state agencies to minimize the extent to which they contribute to the conversion of productive agricultural land.	MDA to request from Governor.	O	P	MDA, Governor's Office
98.	F	P	Farmland Protection	Enact state tax credits for preserving land.	ATITF working on this.	O	L	ATITF, MDA
99.	F	P	Farmland Protection	Encourage all counties to offer tax credits for preserving land.	HB 2/2006 addressed this. In practice, some counties already do this.	O	L	MACO, GICA
100.	F	P	Farmland Protection Cost	Encourage the elimination of capital gains taxes on the sale of development rights.	MDA will include this in its priorities for the Farm Bill.	O	L fed	ATITF, MDA
101.	F	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Ensure full funding for Maryland's land protection programs by dedicating the real estate transfer tax and the agricultural transfer tax for their intended uses.	Received full funding for FY 08.	D/O	L	MDA
102.	F	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Establish a revolving fund for MALPF to buy agricultural land in fee and then sell the land at auction to farmers subject to an easement. (The program could be targeted to beginning or young farmers as appropriate).	MALPF has issued is Critical Farms port which recommends \$4 million annual funding to a total of \$16 million.	D/O	L/4	MALPF
103.	F	L	Farmland Protection Funding	Explore and adopt new funding sources for agricultural land preservation.	The "self-funded" Installment Purchase Agreement program, a major incentive for landowners and the purchaser, will be ready for the 2008 easement cycle. The "leveraged" IPA Program needs dedicated revenue source authorization from the General Assembly.	O	L/\$	MALPF, MARBIDCO, MD Legislature

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104.	T	L	Farmland Protection Funding	#4: Seek a legislative change for MALPF to receive additional POS funding.	Governor could direct independent review of current allocation of POS dollars and recommend changes to make more effective use relative to state goals. Also, MALPF Task Force recommended additional revenue options including increasing the Ag Transfer Tax.	O	L/\$	MALPF
105.	T	L	Farmland Protection Funding	#5 Increase MALPF funding for more easement acquisitions by a further \$20 million with general funds, bond funds or other designated funding sources, such as revenues from slots.	Maryland has the 6th highest farmland prices in the nation, development pressure is increasing, and a recent survey says that 97% of respondents think it is at least somewhat important for the state to preserve land for farming. An analysis should be undertaken to determine how much additional funding would be needed This was also a HB 2/2006 from the 2006 Session.	O	L/\$	MALPF
106.	F	L	Forestry	Create a task force to examine ways to ensure that state programs and regulations are more consistent between forestry and farming.	There is a forestry rep on the ag commission, on GICA and on the MALPF board.	D/O	A	DNR Forestry
107.	F	L	Forestry	Include forestry as part of any agricultural outreach or marketing campaign by the state.	Ongoing as appropriate.	O	P	MDA, MD Legislature
108.	F	P	Insurance	Increase funding levels, participation and types of crops eligible for crop insurance including funding for technical assistance and outreach to the agricultural community	HB2 asks for subsidies for crop insurance premiums, but there is no funding. Support HB1389 (done) Sign HB1389 if passed by General Assembly. Was not included in the Budget, but MDA would like to see it included in the future. Adjust funding request based on HB1389.(possible that it could be implemented with 1.25 – 1.5 million).	D/O	L/\$	MDA
109.	F	P	Local Mktg	Establish an ongoing statewide working group on agricultural marketing and branding issues.	There are several groups working on marketing and branding issues. The Ag Awareness group meets regularly, consisting of 15 reps from different industry groups. Marketing also created an ad hoc advisory board in 2006 to assist MDA in responding to HB.2.	D/O	P	MDA Mktg's Ag Awareness Group, Ad Hoc Advisory Board
110.	F	P	Local Mktg	Initiate a "buy local" promotional campaign with a method to measure results. (64)	MDA is relaunching MD's Best program this year; promoting and advertising farmer's market week; publicizing a buy local campaign. Marketing is working with MDA PIO on events and press releases promoting local products. Marketing is working with Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Del. Dept. of Ag to increase sales of locally grown watermelons in local chain stores. This initiative will be a model for apple sales in the fall.	D/O	P	MDA Mktg.

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111.	F	P	Local Mktg	Improve product availability in Maryland grocery stores and markets.	Meetings were held with local supermarket chains to encourage purchase of more local produce. MDA also facilitated a meeting between Whole Foods and local growers. MDA will also be attending the Produce Marketing Association annual meeting to help MD producers cut deals with buyers within Maryland and in the region. This year MDA is relaunching the Maryland's Best brand; other initiatives include a Mar-Delicious watermelon promotion campaign and fall Maryland apple promotion, etc.	O	P	MDA Mktg.
112.	F	P	Local Mktg	Increase funding for state marketing programs.	HB 2/2006 requested that MDA submit a report to the legislature on the funding that Marketing would need for such improvements. MDA submitted an FY08 OCSB request, which was not funded.	O	L/\$	MDA Mktg.
113.	F	P	Local Mktg	Increase contracts with government institutions to purchase Maryland agricultural products.	HB 883/2006 was signed into law and requires the BPW to establish a 5% price preference for locally grown foods purchased by state institutions under specified circumstances. Much of this action item must be from private initiatives. State institutions have not been responsive, in part because they need year round supplies. Marketing continues to sponsor the Buyer/Grower meetings. MDA will push for an MOU with the Department of Corrections to procure local produce in times when supply exceeds demand.	O	P	MDA Mktg.
114.	F	P	Local Mktg	Encourage establishment of an Agricultural Marketing Professional (AMP) position with economic development focus in those counties that currently do not have this position.	MDA is hiring a new marketing professional to work on MD's Best program; that position also interfaces with county AMPs. Currently, Karen Fedor and Jane Storrs in marketing work with AMPs.-Presently, about 10 counties have AMPs, in addition to the work of the TriCounty Councils. This is a local decision, though MDA is supportive. The Mid Shore Regional Council hired an a Ag specialist in August 2007.	O	P	MDA Mktg., DBE Counties
115.	T	P	Local Mktg	#53: MDA needs to aggressively market Maryland grown and produced products – both in the U.S. and abroad.	MDA is supporting Specialty Crop Promotion Fund in 2007 Farm Bill (included in Governor's federal priorities). Implement Over CSB for marketing activities per # 2. Continue plans to utilize federal grants to promote domestically and internationally. Summer 2007 planned activities: Re-launch Maryland's Best brand with federal specialty crop funds; Buy Local Week late July; farmers' market week, Aug 5-10; Mar-Delicious Watermelon Promotion, Aug. 9-10; Apple Promotion, October. Representing Maryland value-added food companies in Korea; Hosting Filipino delegation for Preakness and Fasig Tipton Horse Sales; Hosting Chinese food buyers.	O	p	MDA Mktg.

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116.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a state guide to planning for agriculture that includes mechanisms, such as reverse setbacks, for reducing land use conflicts, and a model right-to-farm ordinance with guidelines for county officials	This is an ongoing GICA goal. Certain information has already been compiled and published on the MDA website. Additional information will continue to be added, and may be published in hard copy at a later date.	D/O	P	GICA
117.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Develop a technical assistance toolbox for local officials on zoning and regulations that both support traditional agriculture and allow for alternative agricultural uses	GICA	D/O	P	GICA
118.	F	P	Planning For Ag	Convene an ongoing statewide working group to discuss zoning issues related to agriculture and develop tangible action items.	GICA	D/O	A	GICA
119.	F	R	Plant & Animal Protection	Establish a Plant Protection Center at the University of Maryland.	There is an MOU between UMD and USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine. MDA is a member of the Steering Committee and considered a partner with UMD and USDA. As a partner, MDA will provide in kind contributions.	O	P	UMD
120.	T	R	Plant & Animal Protection	#18: Support and fund advancements in agriculture and food, e.g. avian influenza, food safety to continue ensuring that Maryland's products are safe and economically viable around the world. Maryland should be a leader in Avian Flu research and response capability. Get a lab in Salisbury.	FY09 - continue development of capital budget plan for new poultry health diagnostic lab - Provide \$100K funding support for MDA food quality assurance to conduct Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) audits to reduce risk of microbial contaminants. Continue voluntary, industry supported food safety programs including Egg Quality Assurance and Crab Meat Quality Assurance.	O	L/\$	MDA, UMD, Ctr, for Food Safety and Security
121.	F	R	Promote Ag	Develop a public relations campaign promoting the benefits of Maryland agriculture.	The Agricultural Awareness Campaign (AAC) was established to include a broad range of organizations interested in supporting the viability of Maryland farming by initiating an umbrella public relations effort. The intent of the campaign, which is under development, is to improve the perception of agriculture and its importance to the general public with the goal of ultimately improving demand for, and profits from, the sale of Maryland products. While supporting marketing efforts, the campaign also will build public understanding of agriculture that will support policy initiatives, farmland protection, careers in agriculture and more. The group's plan is for this program to be multi-year and budgeted.	D/O	P \$	MDA Marketing, MDA AAC
122.	F	R	Promote Ag	Encourage MHAA to fund projects that promote and present the historic agricultural focus of Maryland.	MHAA receives \$3 million in funding.	D/O	P	MDA, MHAA

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123.	F	P	Promote Ag	Leverage the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) to build corporate partnerships that encourage research and product commercialization.	MDA is supportive of enhanced funding for BARC. Also, a major push is underway to bring a new federal research facility to BARC.	O	P	TEDCO
124.	T	P	Promote Ag	#54: Expand the Cooperative Extension Program to include adequately support staff for a changing agriculture.	While MDA supports this, it is not an MDA Program. Cooperative Extension is a program of the University of Maryland.	O	P	MCE
125.	F	R	Promote Ag	Fund LEAD Maryland program to continue to provide agricultural leaders to advance agriculture in Maryland.	MDA supports LEAD. This year, MDA contribution was \$15,000.	O	L/\$	MAEF
126.	F	R	Promote Ag	Strongly support those university programs where agriculture and suburban/urban markets merge: turf, nursery, horticulture, landscaping.	The Agro Ecology Center has required that RFPs for grant awards address these issues. Baywise Landscape and Horticulture course for nursery and landscape industry. Exploring new program MD Master Naturalist Program.	O	P	UMD
127.	F	R	Promote Ag	Continue Funding MAEF as a vehicle to increase agricultural education in the K-12 school system.	MAEF receives \$75,000 from horse racing, plus proceeds from the Ag tags and money from the Fair Board.	O	L/\$	MAEF. Farm Bureau
128.	F	L	Right 2 Farm	Mandate notification at the front end of real estate transactions and also make this notification legally binding as part of the closing contract.	This has been discussed but not yet implemented.	O	P	GICA
129.	F	P	Wildlife	Extend the deer and geese hunting seasons throughout the state.	A bill passed that expanded Sunday hunting to Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties; a similar bill for Harford failed. Goose hunting is under federal control.	O	L	Farm Bureau, DNR Wildlife
130.	T	P	Wildlife	#55: Establish an interagency committee to help farmers with wildlife issues, including crop destruction, predation orders for geese, etc.	Wildlife is growing problem for farmers. DNR is lead agency. MDA will work with DNR on solutions and does not see a need for a committee. The two agencies and GICA can discuss.	O	P	MDA, DNR Wildlife

Appendix 4
Strategic plan Implementation Partners

Name	Acronym	Number of Recommendations
Agro-ecology Center	No acronym	3
Insurance Commissioner	“	2
Maryland Delegation to Congress	“	2
MD Department of Agriculture (MDA) Marketing Ad Hoc Advisory Board	“	1
Agriculture Awareness Group	“	1
Governor's Office	“	1
Maryland Legislature	“	1
Agricultural Tax Incentive Task Force	ATITF	5
Univ. of Maryland Center for Beginning Farmers and Enterprise Development	CBFED	2
Chesapeake Bay Trust	CBT	2
Univ. of Maryland, Center, for Food Safety and Security	CFSS	1
MD Department of Business and Economic Development	DBED	6
MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	DHMH	2
Department of Natural Resources	DNR	1
Department of Natural Resources Wildlife	DNR Wildlife	2
Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture	GICA	11
Interagency Energy Working Group	IEWG	3
MD Association of Counties	MACO	1
MD Agricultural Education Foundation	MAEF	2
MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	MALPF	6
MD Agriculture and Resource Based Industry Development Corporation	MARBID CO	2
MD Cooperative Extension	MCE	3
MD Department of Agriculture Marketing	MDA Marketing	8
MDA Resource Conservation Office	MDA RCO	6
MD Department of the Environment	MDE	2
Farm Bureau	MDFB	6
Maryland Energy Administration	MEA	1
Maryland Grain Producers Association	MGPA	2
Maryland Horse Industry Board	MHIB	1
Rural Agricultural Fuels Task Force	RAFTF	5
Rural Maryland Council	RMC	1
MD Technology Development Corporation	TEDCO	1
University of Maryland	UMD	5

Appendix 5
Current Budget Summary Of The Maryland Statewide Agricultural Strategic Plan

	Amount	Actual to date	Remaining
DONATIONS	(\$)	Expenditures	Balance
Supporter			
Town Creek Foundation	\$25,000		
France-Merrick Foundation	\$20,000		
MD Farm Bureau	\$20,000		
Keith Campbell Foundation	\$15,000		
Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$15,000		
MD Grain Producers Board	\$10,000		
MD Horse Breeders Assoc	\$10,000		
Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.	\$10,000		
Farm Credit	\$10,000		
MD and VA Milk Producers Cooperative Assn, Inc.	\$10,000		
MD Agricultural Education Fund	\$5,000		
Rural MD Council	\$1,000		
MARBIDCO	\$1,000		
MD Wineries Association	\$1,000		
MD Turfgrass Association, Inc.	\$1,000		
MD Horse Council	\$1,000		
MD Horse Industry Board	\$900		
MD Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.	\$1,000		
MD State Grange, Inc.	\$100		
Mountaire Farms	\$500		
Frederick Co. Pomona Grange	\$75		
Ag Forum Registration fees	\$5,020		
EXPENDITURES			
<i>AFT 1st Invoice</i>		\$26,250	
<i>AFT 2nd Invoice</i>		\$27,813	
<i>AFT 3rd Invoice</i>		\$27,812	
Bel Air Kay CEE Club- Session		\$100	

PG Equestrian Ctr- Forum		\$9,376	
PG Equestrian Ctr- Forum		\$3,922	
PG Equestrian Ctr- Forum		\$500	
Capital Ideas		\$198	
High Starr Copy Services		\$468	
Wagtech Sound Productions		\$7,500	
Martin Atlantic		\$76	
Mjach Designs		\$1,283	
MD Department of Ag		\$86	
Greenstreet Growers		\$500	
Mjach Designs		\$200	
Delmarva Farmer		\$2,697	
American Farm Publications		\$365	
Lancaster Farming		\$649	
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$162,595	\$109,795	\$52,800